

Patent  
TH2429 (US)  
HS:KNL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the accompanying application of )  
P. I. CHIPMAN ET AL ) Group Art Unit :  
Filed February 27, 2004 ) Examiner:  
METHOD OF IMPROVING THE ) February 27, 2004  
OPERATION OF A MANUFACTURING )  
PROCESS )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows: